

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT

THE

Hahnemann Medical College

OF

PHILADELPHIA,

AT THE OPENING OF

THE SESSION OF 1868-9,

BY

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IN A URBAN ADDRESS

It is a great pleasure to me to have the opportunity of addressing you on this important subject. I am sure that you will all be interested in what I have to say.

THE first thing I want to mention is the importance of education. It is the foundation of a good society and the key to a better future.

Education

Education is the most powerful tool we have to improve the lives of our people. It gives them the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life.

It is our duty as a government to ensure that every child has access to a good education.

We must invest in education and make it a priority in our national budget.

Only through education can we build a strong and prosperous nation.

Let us all work together to ensure that every child has the chance to learn.

Thank you very much for your attention.

I am sure that you will all agree that education is the key to a better future.

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LECTURE.

GENTLEMEN :

We assemble on this occasion for the purpose of inaugurating the second Annual Course of Lectures of the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia.

A little over one year has now passed since the completion of the organization of this institution, and here let us take a brief retrospective view of this period; let us notice what has been accomplished within the interval, observe the present condition of the College, and thus endeavor to make a prognosis for the future.

The several committees of the Faculty, and Board of Trustees, immediately upon the organization of the same, setting themselves vigorously to work, soon procured rooms, and commenced preparing them for the use of the College. A large collection of anatomical and other objects for a museum was soon accumulated; many volumes of medical works were brought together, forming thus the nucleus of a library. Chemical and philosophical apparatus procured; a large collection of plates and diagrams prepared, and in the middle of September, a year ago, the College opened for a preliminary course of lectures. On the 13th day of October following, the introductory to the regular course was given by Prof. Koch, to a class which rapidly increased to a size surpassing the expectations of the most sanguine of our number, and giving us a matriculation list of 61 students. After a most harmonious, pleasant, and, we have reason to believe, to the class a most acceptable course of lectures, we had the pleasure, on the 4th of March last, of conferring the honors of the institution, on twenty-six as

deserving candidates as ever received the title of Doctor of Medicine.

The unexpected size of the class the past year, with the encouraging prospects for a still further increase for the year to come, made it apparent that more ample provisions must be made for its accommodation; hence, we to-day welcome you to these new and commodious lecture rooms, which we now dedicate to the cause of Medical Education, and to the promotion of the interests of true Homœopathy. Should we find at the end of the present course of lectures that our class has again outgrown its accommodations, we should be as ready, as in the past, to take another advancing step; expense nor trouble being for a moment weighed against the interest of the institution.

The library of the College we find at the present time including about 600 bound volumes, and 1000 pamphlets, among which may be found works upon nearly every branch of medicine, and its cognate sciences; and many of which are of great value and rarity. Our museum, which is constantly and rapidly increasing in size and value, we find at the present time including nearly 1,500 different objects, amply illustrating anatomy, physiology, obstetrics, surgery, materia medica and pathology.

The semi-weekly clinics have afforded ample material for the practical illustration of the principles inculcated by the professors of surgery and practice of medicine, while the dispensary, under the most efficient management of Dr. W. J. Earhardt, and open daily for the examination and treatment of patients, has reached a most flourishing condition. During the month of October last, upon the first day of which the dispensary was opened, there were put up 252 prescriptions.

In November,	-	-	-	328
In December,	-	-	-	397
In January,	-	-	-	320
In February,	-	-	-	412
In March,	-	-	-	529

making a total for the first six months of 2,238, and for the year ending September, 30th 5,500 prescriptions, exclusive of the large number put up at the medical and surgical clinics. The circumstances under which we meet therefore, to day, are of the most auspicious character; provided with convenient and pleasant lecture-rooms, supplied with ample means of illustration, having a thoroughly organized and efficient Board of Trustees, a harmonious and united Faculty, the sympathy and support of the profession,—these, with the success and encouragement of the past, justify us in making the most favorable prognosis for success in the future, and in predicting that the day is not far distant, when the classes of the Hahnemann Medical College shall equal those of any medical institution in the country.

It has been announced that I am, to-day, to give the *introductory* lecture to the course. The object of an *introduction*, we understand to be that of making the parties introduced acquainted with each other. So my idea of an *introductory lecture* is one in which the student, so far as possible, is introduced to, and made acquainted with the course of study he is about to commence. As the traveler, about setting out on a journey through a new country, would take his map and carefully trace the route he proposes to take, noticing the location of the various places and objects of interest to claim his attention, so is it well on an occasion like the present, for the lecturer to endeavor to point out to the student the path *he* is to pursue in exploring the fields of science, to call his attention to the various subjects that are to be brought before him, to warn him of the difficulties he has to surmount, and thus better prepare him to enter upon his journey. With this view, I propose to devote the remaining portion of the hour, to an examination of the present state of the medical world, with also a reference to the several branches included within our curriculum of study.

It is not my purpose to entertain you with a detailed his-

tory of medicine, nor even to notice the successive and conflicting theories that have arisen from time to time; but simply to show that the old, or Allopathic, system of medicine, as now practiced, is unworthy of our confidence; that its theory of therapeutics is irrational and worthless; that there is an absence of any reliable principle to guide the physician in the treatment of disease; and that the sick are far better off when left to nature, than when subject to its pernicious system of dosing, while a growing want of confidence in this system, both in the public mind and the profession, loudly calls for something more rational in its theory and more successful in its practice.

I shall not ask you to accept my individual opinions in support of these views, but shall place upon the witness-stand, and give you the declarations of men who have spent their lives in the practice of this system—the most of them authors and teachers—men living in different countries, and from the highest ranks of the profession, and who, if any, should be able to pronounce an eulogy upon this system of practice.

What says Boerhaave, a name justly illustrious in the history of medicine? Hear him.

“If we compare the good which a half-dozen true disciples of *Æsculapius* have done since their art began with the evil which the immense number of doctors have inflicted upon mankind, we must be satisfied that it would have been infinitely better for mankind if medical men had never existed.”

The celebrated Bichat of Paris we find saying, when speaking of the system of therapeutics of his day;

“An incoherent assemblage of incoherent opinions, it is, perhaps, of all the physiological sciences, that which best shows the caprice of the human mind. What do I say? It is not a science for a methodical mind. It is a shapeless assemblage of inexact ideas, of observations often puerile, of deceptive remedies, and of form-

ulæ as fantastically conceived, as they are tediously arranged."

Then we find the equally celebrated French physician, Majendie, saying:

"I hesitate not to declare, no matter how sorely I shall wound our vanity, that so gross is our ignorance of the physiological disorders called diseases, that it would, perhaps, be better to do nothing, and resign the complaint we are called upon to treat, to the resources of nature, than to act as we frequently do, without knowing the why and the wherefore of our conduct, and at the obvious risk of hastening the end of our patient."

Dr. Good, the great nosologist, asserts that,

"The science of medicine is a barbarous jargon, and the effects of our medicines on the human system, are in the highest degree uncertain; except, indeed, that they have already destroyed more lives than war, pestilence, and famine combined."

Sir Astley Cooper, England's greatest surgeon, says;

"The science of medicine is founded on conjecture and improved by murder."

But, it may be said, these men lived in the past, and, since their time, the science has improved, and its practice has become more rational and safe. Let us, then, come down to a later period, and listen to Dr. Christison, Professor of materia medica, in the University of Edinburg. He says:

"Of all medical sciences, therapeutics is the most unsettled and most unsatisfactory, in its present state, and the least advanced in progress, and surrounded by the most numerous and most deceitful sources of fallacy."

Sir John Forbes, late editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, after a frank admission of the imperfections of allopathic medicines, says:

"1st. That in a large proportion of the cases treated by Allopathic physicians, the disease is cured by nature, and not by them.

"2d. That in a lesser, but still not a small proportion, the disease is cured in *spite* of them; in other words, their interference opposing, instead of assisting, the cure.

"3d. That, consequently, in a considerable proportion of diseases, it would be as well, or better, with patients, in the actual condition of the medical art, as more generally practiced, if all remedies, at least active remedies, especially drugs, were abandoned." And finally adds, "Things have arrived at such a pitch, that they cannot be worse. They must *mend* or *end*."

But, I may be asked, what are the views of the Professors and writers in our own country. Have they no more confidence in the healing art, than their brethren in the old world? Let us see. Dr. Rush, one of the lights of the profession in his day, remarks:

"The healing art is an unroofed temple, uncovered at the top, and cracked at the foundation." And again: "Our want of success results from the following causes: 1st. Ignorance of the disease; 2d. Our ignorance of a suitable remedy; 3d. Want of efficacy in the remedy; and finally, we have assisted in multiplying disease, we have done more, *we have increased their mortality*."

Professor Chapman, who in his day, stood at the head of the profession in this city, in an address to the medical society, after speaking of the pernicious effects of calomel, adds:

"Gentlemen, it is a disgraceful reproach to the profession of medicine; it is quackery, horrid, unwarranted, murderous quackery. * * But I will ask another question; who is it that can stop the career of mercury at will, after it has taken the reins into its own destructive and ungovernable hands? He, who for an ordinary cause resigns the fate of his patient to mercury is a vile enemy to the sick; and if he is tolerably popular, will, in one successful season, have paved the way for the business of life, for he has enough to do ever afterwards to stop the mercurial breach of the constitutions of his dilapidated patients."

And yet, this article of the *materia medica*, in some of its various forms, is still more frequently prescribed than any other by the Allopathic physician. A writer in the June number of *The London Chemist and Druggist*, having submitted to a careful examination one thousand prescriptions, taken *seriatim* from the files of a druggist, states among other curious facts, that, "mercury takes the lead, and stands prominently at the head of the list. Mercury, the very name of which strikes terror into the minds of nervous and timid patients, is still the foremost remedial agent employed by the medical profession."

Professor Draper, in one of his introductory lectures before the *University Medical College of New York*, makes the following statement:

"Even those of us who have most carefully upheld our old professional theories, and have tried to keep in reverence the old opinions, and the old times, find that under the advance of the exact sciences, our position is becoming untenable. The ground is slipping away from beneath our feet. We are on the brink of a great revolution. Go where you will, among intelligent physicians you will find a deep, though it may be an indistinct perception, that a great change is imminent."

The late Professor Mütter of our own city, in an introductory lecture, given a few years before his death, says:

"We have in truth, 'Rested contented in ideal knowledge.' We have received, as perfect, theories as idle as day dreams; and the foundations of our art must crumble to the earth unless we learn more discretion and better judgment in the selection of the material of which they are to be constructed."

Gentlemen, we might continue these quotations indefinitely; but I will not weary you by citing more, and surely, sufficient evidence has already been produced, to sustain the allegation that the old system of medicine

is unworthy of our confidence; that, with no law upon which to base its principles of treatment, its practice rests upon a chaotic mass of empirical experiences, groundless theories, and ever changing fancies; that those best acquainted with its principles, and the results of its practice, have the least faith in its usefulness; and that the interests of the suffering, imperiously demand a revolution in the method of treating disease, and call for a system more in harmony with nature, more reliable in its application, and more successful in its results.

Gentlemen, I hardly need tell you, that we maintain, that this much-desired and long-looked-for law of cure, which is to be a lamp to the feet of the physician, making plain his path, and giving him an unfailing guide in the application of remedies to the removal of disease, not only exists, but by the immortal Hahnemann, has been already announced in his well-known formula:

"Similia similibus curantur."

And who was Samuel Hahnemann? When I say that this great Reformer of Medicine was a regularly educated physician of great learning and unusual general culture and literary attainments, I speak but feeble praise when compared to the language of Sir John Forbes, Hahnemann's most learned critic, where he says: "No candid observer of his actions, or candid reader of his writings, can hesitate for a moment to admit that he was a very extraordinary man; one, whose name will descend to posterity as the exclusive excogitator and founder of an original system of medicine, as ingenious as many that preceded it, and destined, probably, to be the remote, if not the immediate cause of more fundamental changes in the practice of the healing art, than have resulted from any promulgated since the days of Galen himself." And he adds: "He was undoubtedly a man of genius, and a scholar, a man of indefatigable industry, and of dauntless energy."

Again, Hufeland, one of the lights of orthodox medi-

cine in Germany, speaks of Hahnemann, as one of the most distinguished physicians in Germany, while the late Surgeon Mott, of New York, after having visited Hahnemann, in Paris, speaks in the highest terms, of his candor, learning, and genius.

Time will not permit my attempting here an elucidation of the principles and doctrines promulgated by Hahnemann; yet I wish to notice briefly, some of the results following the introduction of the system of Homœopathy into the medical world. In the first place, it has greatly modified, and, I may say, in some respects quite revolutionized the practice of old school physicians. The almost abandoned use of the lancet, the greatly diminished employment of mercury and other powerful remedies in ponderous doses, and the adoption, generally, of a more mild and rational system of medication, which have taken place within the past thirty years, are facts plain and palpable.

That such results are to be attributed to the influence of Homœopathy was acknowledged by Sir John Forbes, as we have already noticed, and has been repeatedly admitted by other equally as acute observers as himself.

Again, from the carefully prepared statistical tables of the several life insurance companies which have investigated the influence of medical treatment as affecting human life, and from which they feel authorized in offering an annual reduction of ten per cent. to practical Homœopathists, we find the Atlantic Mutual making the following deductions:

“1st. That practical Homœopathists enjoy more robust health. 2d. That they are less frequently attacked by disease. 3d. When attacked they recover more rapidly than those treated by any other system. 4th. That the mortality in the more fatal forms of disease is small compared with that under Allopathic treatment. 5th. That many diseases which are incurable under any other system are curable under Homœopathic treatment.”

By making a general summary from these tables, which have been formed from a large mass of statistics, collected from all parts of the world, and embracing the records of the treatment of some 300,000 cases of disease, we find that the ratio of mortality between Homœopathic and Allopathic treatment, omitting the fractions, to be in general diseases, as 4 to 13; in cholera, as 16 to 49; in typhus fever, as 8 to 33; in yellow fever, as 5 to 43; pneumonia, as 5 to 31. The general average of all diseases being as 8 to 34, while the average length of sickness under the two systems, is as two to three, a clear gain of over fifty per cent. in favor of Homœopathy.

The inquiry will here naturally arise: Why is it, if the Homœopathic system presents such superior results, that it has not been adopted by the profession generally? While its adherents may with pride refer to its rapid growth in this country, its practitioners having increased from 6 in 1830, to over 4000 in 1868, and to the fact that the six colleges of the country, have had an attendance the past year of 325 students, the graduates numbering 165; yet, if the system is all that its adherents claim, why should it still meet with the most bitter opposition of the old school, instead of that hearty acceptance which its merits would seem to demand?

Before answering this question, let us ask, how the medical profession has received the several great discoveries of the past two hundred years? How was the exposition of the circulation of the blood received?

Harvey, its discoverer, was persecuted through life; his enemies, in derision, styling him the *circulator*, a word, in its original Latin, signifying vagabond or quack; and their efforts to destroy him, were so far successful that he lost the greater part of his practice. Ambrose Paré, who first substituted the ligature for boiling pitch, for arresting hemorrhage after amputations, was violently opposed by the Faculty of Paris, who ridiculed the idea

of hanging human life upon a thread, when boiling pitch had stood the test of ages. To the Jesuits of Peru the world is indebted for the invaluable Peruvian Bark. But how did England receive this discovery? Being a popish remedy they at once rejected the drug as the invention of the father of all papists—the devil. Dr. Groenvelt, of London, in 1693, discovered the curative power of Cantharides in dropsy; but no sooner did his cures begin to make a noise than he was committed to Newgate, by warrant of the President of the College of Physicians, for prescribing Cantharides internally. The great discovery of the immortal Jenner, also,—vaccination, was received with ridicule and contempt. By the Royal College of Physicians not only was Jenner persecuted and oppressed but he was refused a license to practice his profession in London. Even religion and the Bible were made engines of attack against him, and attempts were gravely made from these to prove that vaccination was the real *Antichrist*.

In the light of these facts it is no longer a wonder that Hahnemann, after the promulgation of his doctrine, should have been persecuted and driven from city to city; and that from that day to the present the most bitter denunciations have been poured by the old school, not only upon him but, upon all who have adopted, or have even investigated, his method.

But time ever rectifies the mistakes of men. The value of the discoveries of Harvey and Jenner and Paré have long since been acknowledged by the world; and to day, in the city of Leipsic, from which Hahnemann, in his sixty-sixth year, had been driven by order of the Council, stands his monument and statue in bronze, in partial recognition of the merits of one of Saxony's most illustrious sons: and the day will must surely arrive, when the little acorn of truth planted by Hahnemann, and already taking deep root, and lifting high its vigorous stem, shall tower far above all other giants of the

forest, and its wide spreading branches cast their beneficent shadows over the whole earth.

But, gentlemen, having chosen medicine as your lifelong profession, you are now about to enter more immediately upon its study. Let us give for a few moments our attention to an examination of the field of inquiry before you, and take a bird's-eye view of what you have to accomplish before receiving your legal testimonial of fitness to practice the healing art.

Medicine is not a single, separate, or elementary science, but a compound, a composite of sciences. There is, in fact, scarcely a department of knowledge which it does not lay under contribution. Languages, which would seem in no wise related to it, are found on close inspection, to be in intimate and inseparable connection with it, as the whole terminology of our science is found to be directly derived from the languages of Greece and Rome. From mathematics, the science of number and quantity, is borrowed much in modern times the exactness and brevity of formulæ, which have so greatly facilitated investigation and discovery.

Mechanics also comes into use. The human body being a machine, and a very complex one, we need to understand the laws of equilibrium and motion. Meteorology, with its clouds and sunshine, its dryness and moisture, its heat and cold, holds many secrets affecting human health, which the physician may by importunate questioning, find out. An acquaintance with the science of Botany, from its intimate relation to *Materia Medica*, becomes also a matter of much importance; while Natural History, though a vast field of study, is equally deserving of the attention of the thoroughly educated physician. Then there is the science of mind, a field for cultivation so vast, that ground can hardly be said to be broken therein; and yet, every one, professional and non-professional, is quite aware of a strong reciprocal influence existing between mind and body.

The more civilization advances the more refined mankind become; the more will bodily health be affected by mental conditions, and hence the imperative duty, the absolute necessity, of giving diligent heed to the laws of mind, so far as they are known, or are discoverable.

Such are a few of the collateral departments of knowledge, which, though having important bearings upon our profession, are yet remote, compared with those sciences which are, at the present day, considered to belong essentially to medicine. The period of the regular course of lectures being quite too brief for the consideration of these several collateral branches, provision has been made for a summer course in which they shall specially be considered.

In the early ages a knowledge of the healing art was confined to such an acquaintance with the human body, as could be learned from a comparison of it with the structures of the inferior animals, with the most crude notions of the nature of disease and its treatment—while at the present time, we find medicine expanded into at least five distinct sciences: Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Pathology, and Pharmacology or *Materia Medica*; these forming a foundation upon which are built the arts of Surgery, Midwifery, and the Practice of Medicine.

Placed at the head of this list, and claiming the first attention of the medical student, is anatomy. Forming as it does, the foundation of a medical education, no branch in the entire curriculum of study is of more importance than this. At one time the science of anatomy included only a simple acquaintance with the shape, size, position, etc., of the principal organs of the body; while, at the present day, we find it divided into at least four distinct, yet intimately related, branches, viz: 1st, Descriptive anatomy, in which is studied the different organs and tissues as they appear to the unaided senses, upon dissection. 2d, Microscopic anatomy, which teaches the minute structure of tissue and organs, as seen by the micro-

scope, a branch to which both physiology and pathology are deeply indebted for the elucidation of many dark points in the function and disease of many organs of the body. 3d, Surgical anatomy, in which is studied the relation of parts to one another, thus imparting knowledge of the utmost importance to the surgeon. Lastly, Pathological anatomy, which points out the changes produced in the several tissues and organs as the result of disease.

While these several divisions of anatomy will be carefully brought before you and demonstrated from the lecture stand, let me remind you of the importance of the practical exercises of the dissecting room; for it is there you are to impress the subject upon your mind, and acquire the necessary familiarity with this branch of study. Remember, that your opportunity for dissection will, in all probability, close with your college term, and that a neglect to avail yourselves to the fullest extent of this privilege will be ever followed by regrets. Intimately connected with the study of anatomy is that of physiology, in which the functions of the various organs and the character of the several fluids and secretions of the body will be carefully investigated. Here, again, is a broad and interesting field of study, a thorough acquaintance with which is of the greatest importance, for a proper understanding of many diseases, and their successful treatment.

The chair of Chemistry will open to you another extended field of study, including the general principles of natural philosophy, as applied to light, heat, electricity, galvanism, etc., as well as the nature and properties of bodies in both the organic and inorganic world. Let me urge upon you the importance of a careful attention to this too often neglected branch of study, for, if neglected, you will have few opportunities in the future of making up the loss—a loss you will be sure to feel. In the study of *materia medica* you will learn the value

of your knowledge of Chemistry, Botany, Natural History and Geography; for the agents employed in the treatment of disease are drawn from every departments of nature, the vegetable, the mineral, and the animal kingdoms, each contributing their quota, while every clime, and the distant isles of the sea, are called upon to furnish their peculiar products for the healing of disease. From the vast extent and importance of this branch of medicine, your collegiate course will barely serve to initiate you into its study, while a lifetime will be found too short for its mastery.

Then, there remain the practical branches of Surgery, Midwifery, and Practice of Medicine;—branches of such importance that they will require your closest attention, both in the lecture room, at the clinics and at the Hospitals. You cannot but be aware that these branches of our profession are thronged with difficulties and perplexities which ignorance and careless inattention can never hope to overcome. Proficiency in either of them has exacted from minds of the highest order a lifetime of earnest, devoted study.

An acquaintance, therefore, with each and all of these branches of study is absolutely indispensable to the Æsculapian of the nineteenth century; and, just in proportion to the extent of his acquaintance, the accuracy of his knowledge of these, will be the dignity of his professional status. You will soon learn that the domain of each is wide and comprehensive, no mind ever yet having possessed itself of all that is comprised in any one of them.

But your education is not to stop here. You have not only to pursue in detail the several branches of medicine that I have brought before you, and to store your minds with numerous principles that are to be ready for daily practical application; but your senses, your feeling, hearing, sight, and I might include smell and taste, are all to be educated and drilled, that they may be ready to serve you

in the diagnosis, as well as in the treatment, of accident and disease.

How much do we often learn of disease by our hands merely—by the sense of touch? Without this, assisted by hearing, we could never distinguish an abdominal dropsy from a tympanitis; while, when properly educated, we are not only able to discriminate these diseases, but the presence of dropsical fluids in various cavities of the body, or of pus, even when deeply situated, or in small quantities, may be distinguished with the greatest accuracy. To both the Physician and Surgeon, therefore, the careful education of the hand and the sense of touch is of the greatest importance. It enables the latter to accurately diagnose numerous accidents and diseases; to handle skilfully the various instruments, and to successfully manipulate for the reduction of fractures, dislocations, etc.

In the physical diagnosis of diseases of the heart and lungs, a practiced and educated *ear* is of the utmost importance; to discriminate between the valvular murmurs and pericardiac sounds in diseases of the heart, or the various dry and moist rales and other sounds heard in auscultation and percussion of the lungs, an education of this organ is required, which can only be obtained by practice. Hence you should commence, as students, improving every opportunity of listening to the sounds of the heart and lungs, both in a state of disease and of health.

Again; much valuable information may be obtained through the sense of smell. The nature or character of *pus*, as well as of various other secretions and diseases may be ascertained with sufficient accuracy through this sense; while our knowledge of the exanthematous diseases, with various surgical and other affections, as well as much valuable information as to the general condition of our patient, are all to be obtained through the sense of sight.

With this view of the field of study before you, will you be satisfied with a mere glance? will you pause ignobly on the threshold of this glorious temple of knowledge? rather, will you not enter, and gaze on its beauties, and seek to explore its hidden recesses, and unvail its mysteries? When you remember that medicine and its cognate sciences are but in their infancy; that in the direction of each lie vast realms yet unknown but discoverable, waiting only the daring of genius, the tireless energy and unflagging enthusiasm of lofty intellect to enter and possess; will you not be provoked to a noble emulation in the pursuit of knowledge?

In seeking to enter a profession of such dignity place your standard high. Let no low aim content you, but reach always after the more excellent.

Medicine is a liberal study; as you have seen, it is not narrowed down to the petty limits of dosing, as many seem to think, but embraces the widest scope of intelligence, makes every department of knowledge its tributary; compels each and every science to become its torch bearer, whilst it searches the recesses wherein lie hidden the mysteries of the life and growth, of the health and disease, of the cure and death of the microcosm man.

A study so vast and varied should beget in its devotees not only untiring zeal in its pursuit but expansion and freedom of thought, and induce the largest liberality of views and feelings.

With this fixed estimate of the importance of a thorough medical education the institution which you enter to-day has made its curriculum as comprehensive as any on this side the Atlantic.

It aims at thoroughness as well as comprehensiveness. It seeks to lead the student from the primary, the fundamental, to the higher and more complex; grounding him on the demonstrable, while familiarizing him with the speculative; encouraging him to think for himself, and

urging him to a dispassionate exercise of his own judgment, instead of a servile subjection to the opinions of any so-called master. May that debasing reverence for authority, and established routine, which has been so forcibly illustrated in the following dialogue by Molière, never be yours. The Doctor meeting at the door the matter-of-fact maid, inquires,

Phys. How is the coachman?

Maid. Very well; he is dead.

Phys. Dead?

Maid. Yes.

Phys. That is impossible.

Maid. It may be impossible, but is so.

Phys. He cannot be dead, I say.

Maid. I tell you he is dead and buried.

Phys. You are mistaken.

Maid. I saw it.

Phys. It is impossible. Hippocrates says that such diseases do not terminate till the fourteenth or twenty-first day, and it is only six days since he was taken sick.

Maid. Hippocrates may say what he pleases, but the coachman is dead.

No, gentlemen, we shall ask you to swear by no man's dicta. Perfect unanimity of opinion will be expected only upon those fundamental principles at the foundation of medicine. In all disputed or unsettled points, after offering you all the light within our reach, you will be left at the fullest liberty to follow the dictates of your own judgment. But while you exercise this independence of opinion, you are counseled to the exercise of the largest liberty towards others who may conscientiously differ from yourselves.

"In certis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas."

To day you commence your career as medical students. Receiving you as we do, with a cordial welcome, we also extend to you our warm sympathy in the trying ordeal before you. We would remind you, that the work be-

fore you, can only be accomplished by industry and the closest application. He who is frequently absent from the lecture room, or spends his evenings mainly in the pursuit of pleasure, will be sure to fall behind in the race, and at the end meet with disappointment, if not disgrace. Your highest aspirations may be realized, the most gratifying professional honors may ultimately be yours ; meanwhile, forget not that the path leading thereto, is rough and beset with many a thorn. Along this route, however, you must pass, for there is no royal road to that after which you aspire.

We would warn you of the numerous allurements and temptations with which you will be surrounded in this great city, and urge you to a faithful improvement of every opportunity for the accomplishment of the purpose for which you are here. We would impress you with the dignity, usefulness, and responsible character of the profession you are seeking to enter, and desire you to feel, that these can only be maintained by the superior learning, abilities, and conduct of its votaries. Be faithful and true to yourselves, and your Alma Mater will cherish you as the fond mother cherishes her children, and finally shed upon you her highest honors, while your country will be proud to rank you amongst the most useful of her citizens.

And now that you may be encouraged, that abundant success may finally attend your labors, that great good may be accomplished by each of you, and that honor, and emolument may ultimately crown your professional career, is the earnest prayer of both my colleagues and myself.